

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 51143-72393

Title: RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT

Operation/Exercise Name: SPMAGTF LOS ANGELES 92 Observed: 08 May 1992

Originator: G-3, 1ST MARDIV

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Marine units do not have riot control equipment (face shields, batons, shields, etc.) readily available with which to routinely train in civil disturbance techniques.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

When the 1st Marine Division deployed units to South central Los Angeles, no riot control equipment was available until the units reached staging areas at MCAS Tustin. Immediately the units began to practice riot control formations and techniques. Had they not had that opportunity to practice and had they been immediately deployed into a riotous environment, the Marines would have been operating without any riot control training.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

Riot control equipment needs to be available for our Marines to train with on a regular basis.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

All MEU (SOC) BLTs should have face shields and batons for at least two companies. The new International Crisis Enabling (ICE) Force should have riot control equipment at least one week prior to and during periods when they are on standby. This gear should be maintained in the Training Allowance Pools (TAPs) throughout the Marine Corps.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

Future tasks will probably include civil disturbance or riot control operations. NEOs, security operations, protection of ports and airfields, some in US cities, are possibilities for future missions.

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